

## **APPENDIX D**

### **SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES**

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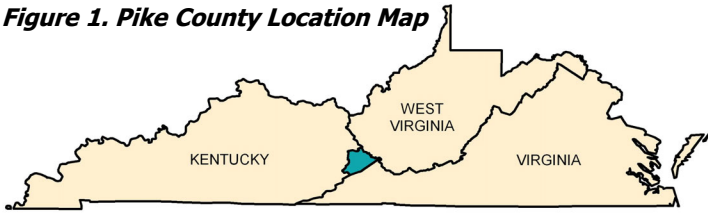
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## I. Description of the Area

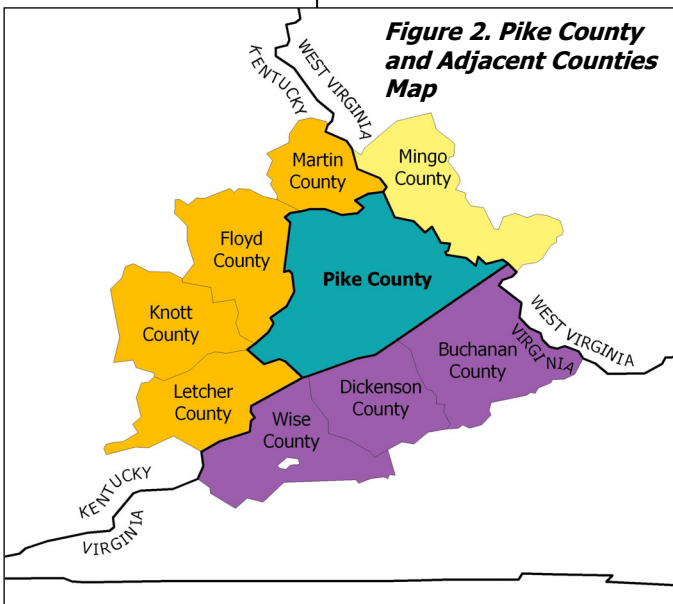
Pike County is located at the eastern tip of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is the largest of the state's 120 counties, encompassing 788 square miles. Pike County was formed in 1822 from Floyd County, and named in honor of General Zebulon Pike. The county is part of the Big Sandy Area Development District and the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field Region (Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Pike County Location Map**



The eight counties that surround Pike County include: Mingo County, West Virginia; Buchanan, Dickenson and Wise Counties in Virginia; and Floyd, Knott, Letcher, and Martin Counties in Kentucky. These eight counties will be referenced throughout this report for comparison purposes (Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Pike County and Adjacent Counties Map**



Pike County, located within the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field Region of the state, is well-known for its rugged topography, narrow river valleys and scenic views. Level land in this physiographic region is limited to areas along the rivers and tributaries, thus development patterns follow the valleys as well. Historically, Pike County's population settled along the Levisa Fork and Russell Fork of the Big Sandy River. Communities along these tributaries include Pikeville, Elkhorn City, Coal Run Village, Shelbiana, Millard, and Regina. The county seat of Pikeville remains the largest community in the county, with slightly less than ten percent of the county's total population.

## II. Climate

The climate in eastern Kentucky consists of warm summers and moderately cold winters. Climate data was gathered from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center. The closest weather station to Pike County is located in Breathitt County to the west (Jackson WSO). Since climate data is not available for Pike County, the Jackson Weather Station data is presented below.

Between 1971 and 2000, the mean annual temperature was approximately 56 degrees Fahrenheit. Average mean temperatures from 1971 to 2000 for each of the following months were:

January	33.9° F
April	56.3° F
July	75.0° F
October	57.5° F

The Pike County area experiences, on average, approximately 50 inches of precipitation and 24 inches of snowfall annually. The growing season typically ranges from March to October, with a median length of 203 days (32°F base temperature).

### III. Population

**TABLE 1. Historical Population Data**

PIKE COUNTY

YEAR	POPULATION	% CHANGE
1900	22,686	
1910	31,679	39.6%
1920	49,477	56.2%
1930	63,267	27.9%
1940	71,122	12.4%
1950	81,154	14.1%
1960	68,264	-15.9%
1970	61,059	-10.6%
1980	81,823	34.0%
1990	72,583	-11.3%
2000	68,736	-5.3%

*US Census Bureau, 1900 - 2000 Decennial Censuses.*

In 1900, Pike County had a population of 22,686 persons (Table 1). As the local economy changed with the influx of the coal mining and timbering industries, the county population increased significantly. Between the turn of the century and the mid-century point – encompassing the coal mining and timbering boom years – Pike County grew by nearly 60,000 people. Pike County experienced its greatest population growth between 1910 and 1920 – an astounding 56.2 percent – and between 1970 and 1980 – an increase of over 20,000 people.

Since 1950, population in Pike County has varied from a low of 61,059 in 1970, to a population peak of 81,823 in 1980. Other counties in the region

also experienced population gains in the 1970s due in part to the increased demand for coal and the limited international supply of oil. The OPEC crisis and oil embargo of 1973 drove energy prices higher than ever before and forced the nation to seek alternative energy sources, including coal. However, this boom was brief and population began to decline; this decline has continued to-date.

In 1980, Pike County's decennial census population count peaked, but declined to 72,583 persons in 1990 and 68,736 persons in 2000. Between 1990 and 2000, Pike County's population declined 5.3 percent, while adjacent counties collectively declined 6.0 percent.

**TABLE 2. Population Projections**

PIKE COUNTY

YEAR	POPULATION	% CHANGE
1990	72,583	
1995	72,346	-0.3%
2000	68,736	-5.0%
2005	66,864	-2.7%
2010	64,391	-3.7%
2015	61,368	-4.7%
2020	58,035	-5.4%
2025	54,544	-6.0%
2030	50,823	-6.8%

*US Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses and 1995 Estimate. Kentucky State Data Center 2005 - 2030 Population Projections (Middle Series) August 5, 2003.*

During the same time period, the Commonwealth of Kentucky's population increased by 10.3 percent.

Based upon historical population data, the Kentucky State Data Center (KSDC) prepares population projections for each of Kentucky's 120 counties throughout the Commonwealth. KSDC projects Pike County's population will continue to decline at a rate equal to or greater than the decline the county experienced over the most recent decade (Table 2). By the year 2010, Pike County's population is projected to decline 6.3 percent since the year 2000, and by 2030, Pike County is projected to shrink to near its 1920 population.

**TABLE 3. 1990 to 2000 Population Change**  
PIKE COUNTY and CENSUS DESIGNATED PLACES

PLACE	1990 POPULATION	2000 POPULATION	% CHANGE
PIKE COUNTY	72,583	68,736	-5.3%
Coal Run Village	262	577	120.2%
Elkhorn City	813	1,060	30.4%
Pikeville	6,324	6,295	-0.5%
Rest of County	65,184	60,804	-6.7%

US Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses.

population increased 30.4 percent. A majority of population decline occurred within the unincorporated portions of the county. This pattern runs counter to a statewide trend of population growth outside of cities in rural areas across Kentucky.

Many counties in the region have experienced out-migration of youth and low levels of natural population increases – Pike County is no different. The median age in Pike County increased from 32.4 years to 37.1 years between 1990 and 2000 (Table 4). As a community's median age climbs, special social and economic issues must be addressed, such as a smaller labor force, greater demands on medical and transportation facilities, and demand for varied types of housing. The median age of residents in Elkhorn City (44.7 years) and Coal

Municipalities within Pike County have experienced varying population declines and increases between 1990 and 2000 (Table 3). Pikeville's population declined slightly, while Coal Run Village and Elkhorn City experienced increases in population during the same time period, primarily due to annexation. Coal Run Village's population increased over 120 percent, and Elkhorn City's

population increased 30.4 percent. A majority of population decline occurred within the unincorporated portions of the county. This pattern runs counter to a statewide trend of population growth outside of cities in rural areas across Kentucky.

Many counties in the region have experienced out-migration of youth and low levels of natural population increases – Pike County is no different. The median age in Pike County increased from 32.4 years to 37.1 years between 1990 and 2000 (Table 4). As a community's median age climbs, special social and economic issues must be addressed, such as a smaller labor force, greater demands on medical and transportation facilities, and demand for varied types of housing. The median age of residents in Elkhorn City (44.7 years) and Coal Run Village (43.5 years) was significantly higher than the county as a whole.

**TABLE 4. 1990 and 2000 Population Characteristics**  
PIKE COUNTY

CHARACTERISTIC	1990	2000
<b>Population</b>	72,583	68,736
<b>Age</b>		
Under 18 years	27.9%	23.7%
65 years and over	10.6%	12.3%
Median Age	32.4	37.1
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	48.9%	48.8%
Female	51.1%	51.2%
<b>Race</b>		
<b>One Race</b>	---	<b>99.4%</b>
White	99.2%	98.3%
Black or African American	0.3%	0.5%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.1%	0.1%
Asian	0.3%	0.4%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	---	0.0%
Other	0.0%	0.1%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	---	<b>0.6%</b>
<b>Hispanic or Latino Origin</b>		
Hispanic or Latino of Any Race	0.3%	0.7%
Not Hispanic or Latino	99.7%	99.3%

Pike County's gender and racial distribution remained relatively constant from 1990 to 2000. Changes to the 2000 census form allowed persons to choose more than one racial category, thus it is difficult to compare 1990 and 2000 percentages. In 2000, a majority of Pike County's population was White (98.3 percent), 99.4 percent of persons were of one race, while 0.6 percent were of two or more races. A small percentage of the county's population was Black or African American (0.5 percent), American Indian or Alaska Native (0.1 percent), Asian (0.4 percent), or Other race (0.1 percent). Additionally, the percentage of Hispanic or Latino origin residents in Pike County grew from 0.3

U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses.

percent to 0.7 percent during the 1990s. Generally, Pike County's population characteristics are similar to those of the eight surrounding counties (Table 5). Population percentages for the young and old for Pike County are similar to adjacent counties as a whole and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, however, Pike County's median age is higher when compared to the state average. Of adjacent counties, Martin County, Kentucky has the lowest median age (34.1 years) and Dickenson County, Virginia has the highest median age (39.7 years). Gender distribution among the eight surrounding counties and the state are comparable to Pike County – approximately 51 percent of the population is female. Buchanan County, Virginia is the only adjacent county that reported a larger male population than female population. In 2000, the Commonwealth of Kentucky was more racially diverse than Pike County and its adjacent counties with 9.9 percent of persons reporting their race as other than White. By comparison, only 1.7 percent of Pike County's population reported their race as non-White.

**TABLE 5. 2000 Population Characteristics**

PIKE COUNTY COMPARED to ADJACENT COUNTIES and the COMMONWEALTH of KENTUCKY

CHARACTERISTIC	PIKE COUNTY	ADJACENT COUNTIES	KENTUCKY	FLOYD COUNTY	KNOTT COUNTY	LETCHER COUNTY	MARTIN COUNTY	BUCHANAN COUNTY	DICKENSON COUNTY	WISE COUNTY	MINGO COUNTY
<b>Age</b>											
Under 18 years	23.7%	23.5%	24.6%	23.6%	24.5%	23.7%	28.1%	21.4%	22.1%	23.0%	24.2%
65 years and over	12.3%	12.5%	12.5%	12.2%	11.4%	12.6%	9.7%	11.5%	14.5%	13.9%	12.4%
Median Age	37.1	---*	35.9	36.7	35.9	37.9	34.1	38.8	39.7	37.8	37.2
<b>Sex</b>											
Male	48.8%	49.1%	48.9%	49.2%	49.3%	48.9%	49.5%	50.7%	48.9%	48.7%	48.4%
Female	51.2%	50.9%	51.1%	50.8%	50.7%	51.1%	50.5%	49.3%	51.1%	51.3%	51.6%
<b>Race</b>											
<b>One Race</b>	<b>99.4%</b>	<b>99.5%</b>	<b>98.9%</b>	<b>99.6%</b>	<b>99.4%</b>	<b>99.6%</b>	<b>99.5%</b>	<b>99.7%</b>	<b>99.6%</b>	<b>99.4%</b>	<b>99.3%</b>
White	98.3%	97.6%	90.1%	97.7%	98.3%	98.7%	99.3%	96.7%	99.0%	96.9%	96.4%
Black or African American	0.5%	1.4%	7.3%	1.3%	0.7%	0.5%	0.0%	2.6%	0.4%	1.8%	2.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Asian	0.4%	0.2%	0.7%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	0.1%	0.1%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>Hispanic or Latino Origin</b>											
Hispanic or Latino of Any Race	0.7%	0.6%	1.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.7%	0.5%
Not Hispanic or Latino	99.3%	99.4%	98.5%	99.4%	99.4%	99.6%	99.4%	99.5%	99.6%	99.3%	99.5%

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census.

\* Median Age cannot be calculated for all adjacent counties as a whole because individual data is not available.



## IV. Housing, Households and Families

In 2000, a total of 30,923 housing units were present in Pike County and 89.3 percent of households were occupied (Table 6). Of all housing units, 70.3 percent were owner-occupied, 19.0 percent were renter-occupied and the remaining 10.7 percent were vacant. Between 1990 and 2000, a total of 6,977 new housing units were constructed, however, 4,814 older structures were demolished or destroyed. As a result, a net gain in the total number of housing units was realized. A net gain in housing units during a decade when population is declining has produced an increasing number of vacant buildings and rate of vacancy throughout the county. By comparison, Kentucky as a whole experienced a 9.2 percent vacancy rate, while the United States experienced a 9.0 percent vacancy rate in the year 2000.

Pikeville's homeownership rates are significantly lower than other areas of the county (43.0 percent), while maintaining a low vacancy rate of 9.3 percent, thus the community has a high percentage of renter-occupied units (47.7 percent). Elkhorn City had a homeownership rate of 61.9 percent and Coal Run Village had a homeownership rate of 75.4 percent.

While homeownership and the median value of occupied structures in Pike County increased during the 1990s, the number of vacant structures rose and the number of rental-occupied units declined. Changes in the housing mixture can become cause for concern if persons searching for affordable housing units are unable to locate any. An increasing number of vacant units may indicate an adequate pool of potential residences for purchase or rent, although not necessarily considered affordable to lower income residents or safe and sanitary.

**TABLE 6. 1990 and 2000 Housing Characteristics**

PIKE COUNTY

CHARACTERISTIC	1990		2000	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
<b>Housing Units</b>	<b>28,760</b>		<b>30,923</b>	
Owner Occupied	20,101	69.9%	21,729	70.3%
Renter Occupied	6,047	21.0%	5,883	19.0%
Vacant	2,612	9.1%	3,311	10.7%
Built 1990 to March 2000	---	---	6,977	22.6%
Built 1980 to 1989 <sup>1</sup>	7,953	27.7%	6,839	22.1%
Built 1970 to 1979	9,638	33.5%	7,817	25.3%
Built 1960 to 1969	3,231	11.2%	2,753	8.9%
Built 1940 to 1959	4,874	16.9%	4,151	13.4%
Built 1939 or Earlier	3,046	10.6%	2,386	7.7%
Median Value	\$40,100		\$65,900	
<b>Households</b>	<b>26,148</b>		<b>27,612</b>	
Average Household Size	2.78		2.46	
<b>Household Types</b>				
<b>Family Households</b>	<b>20,960</b>	<b>80.2%</b>	<b>20,364</b>	<b>73.8%</b>
Married Couple Family	17,333	66.3%	16,224	58.8%
Female-Headed Family <sup>2</sup>	2,864	11.0%	3,159	11.4%
Male-Headed Family <sup>3</sup>	763	2.9%	981	3.6%
Average Family Size	3.14		2.90	
<b>Nonfamily Households</b>	<b>5,188</b>	<b>19.8%</b>	<b>7,248</b>	<b>26.2%</b>
Living Alone	4,875	18.6%	6,666	24.1%
Two or More Residents	313	1.2%	582	2.1%

US Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Decennial Census

<sup>1</sup> 1990 Data reflects construction of housing units through March 1990.

<sup>2</sup> No Husband Present

<sup>3</sup> No Wife Present

The housing stock in Pike County is growing slightly older. In 1990, 61.2 percent of structures were 20 years old or newer (built since 1970). In 2000, that percentage declined to 44.7 percent (built since 1980).

The U.S. Census Bureau defines a household as a single housing unit and those persons which occupy the unit. A family household is defined as a household where persons related by birth, marriage, and adoption reside. In 2000, Pike County was comprised of 27,612 households and 20,364 family households (Table 6). The remaining 7,248 households are considered non-family households and may consist of individuals living alone, or two or more persons living together who are not related by birth, marriage or adoption.

In 2000, the average household size was 2.46 persons per household and 2.90 persons per family. Average household and family sizes in Pike County declined since 1990. While the number of households increased slightly between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of family households declined from 80.2 percent to 73.8 percent. Fewer married couple families were present, although all other types of families increased in total number. Gains in single-parent households, especially female-headed households with no husband present, contribute to higher poverty rates and often put a strain on local social programs such as public health clinics, unemployment benefits, free school lunch, and the Salvation Army, among others.

All three incorporated communities had a lower percentage of family households compared to the county, indicating that a greater number of families live in the unincorporated areas of the county. Within Pikeville, 57.8 percent of all households are family households, compared to 66.2 percent in Coal Run Village and 67.7 percent in Elkhorn City.

When compared to adjacent counties, Pike County's housing characteristics are similar in terms of occupancy and vacancy rates, and household types (Table 7). Pike County boasts the highest median value of occupied structures compared to all adjacent counties. In comparison, Kentucky's median value significantly exceeds the county, and the United States' median value is almost twice as high (\$119,600). Between 1990 and 2000, construction of housing units in Pike County was 6,977, almost twice the number of any other adjacent county. Pike County's housing stock is newer compared to all adjacent counties and the Commonwealth of Kentucky; 44.7 percent of housing units were built since 1980 in the county, compared to 39.0 percent and 36.0 percent respectively. On an individual basis, only Buchanan County, Virginia has a higher percentage of housing units constructed since 1980 (49.0 percent).

**TABLE 7. 2000 Housing Characteristics**

PIKE COUNTY COMPARED TO ADJACENT COUNTIES and the COMMONWEALTH of KENTUCKY

CHARACTERISTIC	PIKE COUNTY	ADJACENT COUNTIES	KENTUCKY	FLOYD COUNTY	KNOTT COUNTY	LETCHER COUNTY	MARTIN COUNTY	BUCHANAN COUNTY	DICKENSON COUNTY	WISE COUNTY	MINGO COUNTY
<b>Housing Units</b>	<b>30,923</b>	<b>93,347</b>	<b>1,750,927</b>	<b>18,551</b>	<b>7,579</b>	<b>11,405</b>	<b>5,551</b>	<b>11,887</b>	<b>7,684</b>	<b>17,792</b>	<b>12,898</b>
Owner Occupied	70.3%	69.9%	64.3%	69.4%	70.5%	71.5%	68.3%	73.0%	71.9%	67.8%	68.1%
Renter Occupied	19.0%	19.0%	26.6%	21.6%	18.1%	16.9%	17.8%	15.1%	15.7%	22.2%	19.5%
Vacant	10.7%	11.1%	9.2%	9.0%	11.4%	11.6%	14.0%	12.0%	12.4%	10.0%	12.4%
Built 1990 to March 2000	22.6%	19.9%	21.2%	20.2%	21.7%	21.1%	24.6%	16.9%	19.0%	17.9%	21.7%
Built 1980 to 1989	22.1%	19.1%	14.8%	21.9%	21.8%	14.7%	24.4%	17.8%	16.5%	17.7%	20.0%
Built 1970 to 1979	25.3%	24.4%	20.0%	21.9%	25.0%	22.5%	29.9%	28.9%	24.7%	24.7%	22.2%
Built 1960 to 1969	8.9%	9.7%	13.7%	11.1%	9.8%	8.8%	7.4%	12.8%	10.6%	8.7%	7.6%
Built 1940 to 1959	13.4%	16.4%	18.0%	15.9%	14.8%	16.9%	8.4%	17.3%	17.1%	18.0%	17.7%
Built 1939 or Earlier	7.7%	10.4%	12.4%	8.9%	6.8%	16.1%	5.4%	6.4%	12.1%	13.0%	10.8%
Median Value	\$ 65,900	----- 1	\$ 86,700	\$ 53,100	\$ 46,500	\$ 39,500	\$ 62,100	\$ 55,400	\$ 55,900	\$ 65,700	\$ 61,100
<b>Households</b>	<b>27,612</b>	<b>82,971</b>	<b>1,590,647</b>	<b>16,881</b>	<b>6,717</b>	<b>10,085</b>	<b>4,776</b>	<b>10,464</b>	<b>6,732</b>	<b>16,013</b>	<b>11,303</b>
Average Household Size	2.46	2.53	2.47	2.45	2.54	2.48	2.62	2.46	2.42	2.44	2.49
<b>Household Types</b>											
<b>Family Households</b>	<b>73.8%</b>	<b>73.4%</b>	<b>69.4%</b>	<b>72.7%</b>	<b>74.3%</b>	<b>74.0%</b>	<b>75.8%</b>	<b>75.5%</b>	<b>72.6%</b>	<b>71.9%</b>	<b>72.7%</b>
Married Couple Family	58.8%	57.6%	53.9%	56.5%	57.6%	58.4%	59.5%	60.9%	58.0%	56.2%	56.2%
Female-Headed Family <sup>2</sup>	11.4%	11.9%	11.8%	12.3%	12.6%	11.5%	12.5%	10.6%	10.6%	12.0%	12.7%
Male-Headed Family <sup>3</sup>	3.6%	3.9%	3.7%	3.9%	4.1%	4.0%	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%	3.8%	3.9%
Average Family Size	2.90	----- 1	2.97	2.93	3.00	2.94	3.05	2.87	2.88	2.91	2.98
<b>Nonfamily Households</b>	<b>26.2%</b>	<b>26.6%</b>	<b>30.6%</b>	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>25.7%</b>	<b>26.0%</b>	<b>24.2%</b>	<b>24.5%</b>	<b>27.4%</b>	<b>28.1%</b>	<b>27.3%</b>
Living Alone	24.1%	24.5%	26.0%	25.2%	23.6%	24.1%	21.8%	22.5%	25.3%	25.5%	25.2%
Two or More Residents	2.1%	2.2%	4.5%	2.1%	2.1%	2.0%	2.4%	2.0%	2.1%	2.5%	2.1%

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census.

<sup>1</sup> Cannot be calculated for all adjacent counties as a whole because individual data is not available.

<sup>2</sup> No Husband Present

<sup>3</sup> No Wife Present

## **V. Transportation, Public Utilities and Communication**

The major highways that serve Pike County include: US Routes 23 and 119 north-south; and US Route 460 and State Route 80 east-west. All four highways merge at the Pikeville Cut-Through Project, thus connecting Pikeville to the surrounding communities of Prestonsburg, Elkhorn City and Jenkins, Kentucky and Williamson, West Virginia. The Mountain Parkway and the Daniel Boone Parkway are within an hour and a half drive of Pikeville. These two parkways provide connections to the I-75 north-south and I-64 east-west corridors in Kentucky. In addition, US Route 119 provides access to southern West Virginia, while US 460 connects Pike County to southwestern Virginia.

The proposed Southern Kentucky Corridor (I-66)/TransAmerica Corridor would cross the southern portion of Kentucky, connecting Pikeville to the proposed King Coal Highway to the northeast and to Hazard, London, and Somerset to the west. The Pike County section of the proposed corridor is among several priority sections and would provide improved access for residents of the Appalachian Mountains.

Commuting data gathered by the U.S. Census Bureau shows that 93.9 percent of Pike County residents drove to work in 2000, either alone or by carpooling. A small percentage of residents used public transportation (0.4 percent), walked (3.0 percent), worked at home (1.9 percent) or used some other means of travel to get to work (0.9 percent).

The Norfolk Southern Railway and CSX Transportation provide freight rail services in Pike County. Norfolk Southern Railway accesses Pike County and other areas of eastern Kentucky via main lines in southern West Virginia. In 1999, a majority of freight originating in Kentucky was coal (88 percent of 95.5 million tons), and it can be assumed the same is true of Pike County. The CSX Transportation mainline along the Levisa and Russell Forks handles a very high density of rail traffic – greater than 50 million gross ton-miles per mile (MGT-M/M) annually.

Pike County is served by one airport and one heliport. The Pike County Airport-Hatcher Field is six miles northwest of Pikeville and is accessible from US Route 460/23/80. The airport has two runways, one in good and one in fair condition. Pikeville Methodist Hospital owns the heliport, which is located on the rooftop of the hospital. The heliport is for private, medical use only. The closest commercial airport to Pike County is located to the southeast in Bristol, Tennessee.

Kentucky recognizes eight bicycle tours that crisscross the state. One bicycle tour, the TransAmerica Trail, utilizes Pike County roadways and provides a scenic, yet challenging bicycle adventure. The TransAmerica Trail begins in Crittenden County on the Ohio River at the Kentucky-Illinois border, stretches across the state to Pike County and ends at the Kentucky-Virginia border near the Breaks Interstate Park. The TransAmerica Trail, starting at the Pike-Floyd County line, runs along State Route 122 and 1469 east, US Route 23 and 119 south to Shelby Gap and State Route 197 northeast through Elkhorn City to the Breaks Interstate Park.

Utility services in Pike County are managed and distributed by several private operations in conjunction with community operated services. Electric power is provided by American Electric Power (AEP), and a majority of Pike County's telephone service is provided by Bell South. Coalfields Telephone Company serves a small geographic area in Pike County along the Floyd-Pike county line. Natural gas is distributed by Pikeville Gas System; Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc.; Peoples Gas, Inc.; Belfry Gas, Inc. and Zebulon Gas Association. Water districts serving the county include Mountain Water District and Sandy Valley Water District. Wastewater treatment is provided by Beaver Elkhorn Water District, Mountain Water District, and the Elkhorn City Water Department. The City of Pikeville owns both its water and wastewater treatment systems.

## VI. Education

Pike County and Pikeville Independent School Districts provide public education to the residents of the county. Together, the two systems contain eight high schools, two middle schools, ten middle/elementary schools and nine elementary schools. Additionally, there are three alternative schools – the Kentucky Youth Academy and two day treatment centers (Figure 3). Total enrollment during the 2001-2002 school-year was 13,851 students. During the same school year, over 775 full-time teachers were employed by the two school districts and 747 diplomas were awarded. The Pike County School District offers programs for gifted and talented and special education students, as well as programs in adult education and family literacy. Private schools in Pike County include Saint Francis of Assisi Elementary School and Christ Central School.

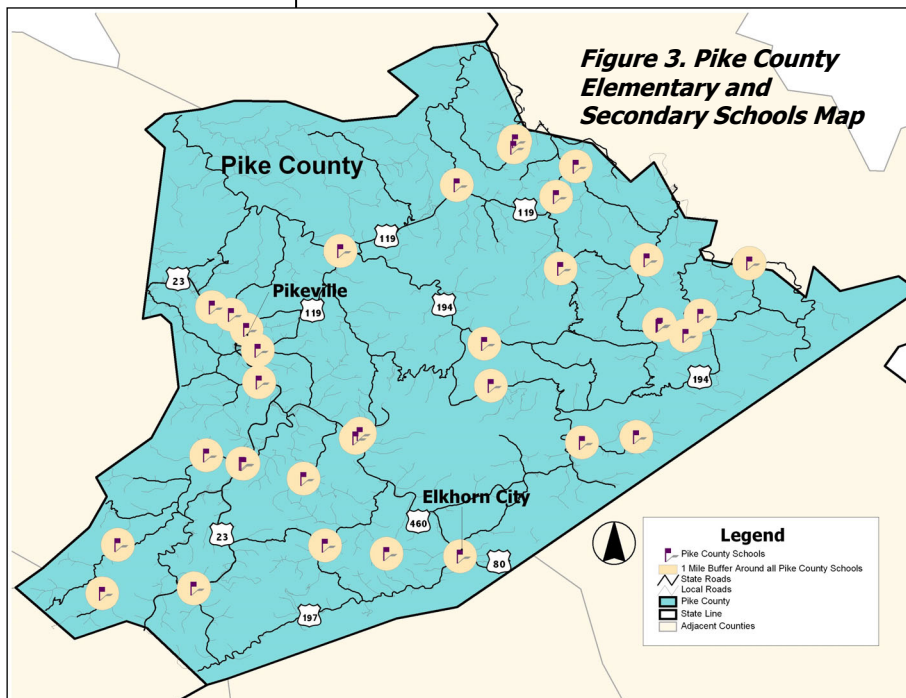
Pikeville College, located in downtown Pikeville, offers four associate degree programs, 25 baccalaureate degree programs and one professional program – a post-graduate doctoral degree in

osteopathic medicine. Pikeville College was founded in 1889, is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, and boasts a total enrollment of over 1,000 students – approximately 750 undergraduate students and 250 medical students.

Pike County residents are within driving distance of several other colleges and universities including the Appalachian School of Law, University of Kentucky, Morehead

State University, King College, Virginia Intermont College, East Tennessee State University, Emory and Henry College, Radford University, University of Virginia at Wise, Marshall University, and the University of Charleston.

In 2000, of the population in Pike County over the age of 25 years, 61.8 percent had obtained a high school diploma, while 9.9 percent



graduated college with a Bachelor's degree or more (Table 8). Both rates are significant improvements in educational attainment since 1990. Compared to most adjacent counties, Pike County remains more highly educated, which may be attributed to Pikeville College and its faculty, and the county's role as an employment center for the region. While Pike County boasts higher educational attainment than many of its neighboring counties, the county was significantly lower compared to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Lower educational attainment levels than the state may reflect a smaller percentage of young adults in the county. Many young adult may be leaving Pike County to obtain post-secondary education degrees and employment elsewhere.

**TABLE 8. 1990 and 2000 Educational Attainment**

PIKE COUNTY COMPARED to ADJACENT COUNTIES and the COMMONWEALTH of KENTUCKY

PLACE	Percent Completing High School		Percent Completing Four or More Years of College	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
PIKE COUNTY	50.2%	61.8%	7.7%	9.9%
ADJACENT COUNTIES	54.5%	59.0%	8.1%	8.9%
KENTUCKY	64.6%	74.1%	13.6%	17.1%
FLOYD COUNTY	50.8%	61.3%	7.4%	9.7%
KNOTT COUNTY	45.1%	58.7%	8.2%	10.2%
LETCHER COUNTY	45.6%	58.5%	6.7%	7.7%
MARTIN COUNTY	44.4%	54.0%	6.0%	9.0%
BUCHANAN COUNTY	61.0%	52.9%	9.3%	8.0%
DICKENSON COUNTY	65.3%	58.9%	8.3%	6.7%
WISE COUNTY	72.6%	62.5%	11.9%	10.8%
MINGO COUNTY	50.4%	59.6%	6.6%	7.3%

Within Pikeville, 69.4 percent of the population over 25 years of age completed high school and 26.2 percent completed a Bachelor's degree or more education. Coal Run Village had even higher educational attainment among its population – 77.0 percent completed high school and 26.5 percent obtained a Bachelor's degree or more. Elkhorn City's educational attainment is more closely in line with the county – 57.7 percent completed high school and 12.0 percent completed a Bachelor's degree or higher.

*U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses.*

Educational attainment is shown for population 25 years of age and older.

## **VII. Recreation and Other Public Facilities**

Recreational opportunities are available for Pike County residents locally as well as regionally. Ten county parks offer a variety of recreation facilities throughout the county, including children's playgrounds, baseball fields, walking tracks, basketball and tennis courts, horseshoe pits, picnic areas, swimming pools, and river access points. As is common in the region, Pike County is blessed with miles of scenic views, wildlife habitat, and natural forestland.

As Kentucky's eastern most county, Pike County residents have access to regional recreational opportunities in three states. Recreation areas within 50 miles include: Fishtrap Lake and Wildlife Management Area, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, Pine Mountain Trail State Park, Breaks Interstate Park, and Laurel Lake Wildlife Management Area. These regional recreation sites collectively offer hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, boating, golf, and lodging.

Health care facilities in Pike County include three local public health clinics and four health service centers operated by the Pike County Health Department, as well as six private health care clinics, five nursing facilities with 500 beds, and two major hospitals – Pikeville Methodist and Williamson ARH Hospital. In 2003, Pike County is currently served by 165 licensed doctors and 37 dentists.

Pike County Public Library has five branches located in communities throughout the county including Belfry, Elkhorn City, Phelps, Pikeville and Virgie. The library's catalog can also be accessed online at [www.pikelibrary.org](http://www.pikelibrary.org). Additional library resources can be found at Pikeville College (Frank M. Allara Library), Pikeville Methodist Hospital (medical library), and among more than thirty schools in the county.

Pike County also has six senior citizen centers which provide a wide range of programs for seniors in the area. Senior Centers are located in Belfry, Elkhorn City, Lookout (Marrowbone), Phelps, and Pikeville.



## VIII. Local Economy, Labor Force and Employment

**Table 9. 2000 Employment by Industry**

PIKE COUNTY

INDUSTRY	NUMBER	PERCENT
Agricultural, Fishing, Forestry, Hunting & Mining	3,267	14.7%
Construction	1,295	5.8%
Manufacturing	953	4.3%
Wholesale Trade	652	2.9%
Retail Trade	3,297	14.8%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	1,621	7.3%
Information	494	2.2%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Rental/Leasing	1,141	5.1%
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative & Waste Management Services	1,419	6.4%
Educational, Health & Social Services	5,200	23.4%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation & Food Services	1,003	4.5%
Other Services	967	4.3%
Public Administration	921	4.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,230</b>	<b>100%</b>

*U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census.*

Historically, Pike County's local economic base focused around natural resource extraction, mostly timbering and coal mining. The coal mining industry began to lead the local economy when the first railroads reached the region.

Since that time, Pike County's economy has diversified. The mining and forestry industries still employ a significant percentage of people (14.7 percent when combined with agricultural support, fishing and hunting), although the retail trade (14.8 percent) and education, health and social services (23.4 percent) have grown and now employ more people and have more establishments than the coal mining and forestry industries together (Table 9). The U.S. Census Bureau defines an establishment as a single physical location at which business is conducted or services or industrial operations are performed; an establishment is not necessarily a

company or enterprise, which may consist of one or more establishments. In 2001, 99 mining industry establishments operated in Pike County, compared to 322 retail trade establishments and 169 health care and social assistance establishments (Table 10). The following industries also operated a large number of establishments within the county in 2001: transportation and warehousing (179); professional, scientific, and technical services (118); other services (125); and construction (92).

While fewer residents are employed in the coal mining industry, the total annual payroll for coal mining establishments remains a relatively large percentage of total annual payrolls for all establishments in Pike County (Table 11). In 2001, Pike County's mining industry paid over \$164 million to its employees in salaries, wages, bonuses, benefits, and all other forms of compensation. This amount represents 30.5 percent of all total annual payrolls for the county. As the mining industry has declined and become increasingly mechanized, the total annual payroll for mining establishments as a percentage of total annual payroll for the county has also declined. That trend continues as shown in Table 11. If the mining industry continues to decline in the future, the diversity of Pike County's economy will become more important – additional employment industries will need to compensate for the loss in employment and earnings in mining.

**Table 10. Total Establishments by Industry**

PIKE COUNTY

INDUSTRY	1998	1999	2000	2001
Fishing, Forestry, Hunting & Agricultural Support	5	5	8	9
Mining	104	92	93	99
Utilities	7	9	9	7
Construction	90	91	89	92
Manufacturing	28	27	27	24
Wholesale Trade	71	70	68	66
Retail Trade	353	339	332	322
Transportation & Warehousing	212	208	190	179
Information	18	18	19	17
Finance & Insurance	67	74	81	73
Real Estate & Rental/Leasing	43	48	47	40
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	116	115	115	118
Management of Companies & Enterprises	8	10	7	7
Admin Support, Waste Management & Remediation Services	41	40	41	40
Educational Services	5	6	6	7
Health Care & Social Assistance	149	152	163	169
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	6	9	8	9
Accommodation & Food Service	82	78	81	84
Other Services	119	125	122	125
Auxiliaries	7	7	6	6
Other Unclassified Establishments	9	13	7	11
<b>Total Establishments</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>1,519</b>	<b>1,504</b>

U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns Data, 1998 through 2001.

years of age were not part of the labor force either by choice or circumstance. Many are still in school and others choose to remain unemployed. By comparison, 43.0 percent of all adjacent counties and 60.9 percent of the Commonwealth of Kentucky are part of the labor force (Table 13).

Of Pike County's total population over 16 years of age, 44.8 percent were considered part of the county's labor force (Table 12). The U.S. Census Bureau breaks the labor force into three categories: 1) employed in the civilian labor force, 2) employed in the armed forces, and 3) unemployed. The civilian labor force is made up of those people who are: 1) working for pay, 2) working for a family enterprise without pay, 3) working, but temporarily absent from work for reasons such as vacation, illness, weather conditions, labor-management dispute, etc., and 4) not working, but actively looking for employment. In 2000, 40.7 percent of the total population over 16 years of age was employed in the civilian labor force, while 0.0 percent were employed in the armed forces (23 individuals) and 4.0 percent were unemployed. The remaining 55.2 percent of Pike County's population over 16

**Table 11. Total Annual Payroll by Industry in Thousands of Dollars**

PIKE COUNTY

INDUSTRY	1998	1999	2000	2001
Mining	33.0%	32.2%	31.4%	30.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	17.8%	18.1%	18.5%	17.9%
Retail Trade	13.5%	13.4%	13.0%	13.0%
<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>467,672</b>	<b>494,140</b>	<b>522,349</b>	<b>538,731</b>

U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns Data, 1998 through 2001.

**Table 12. 1990 and 2000 Employment Characteristics**

PIKE COUNTY

CHARACTERISTIC	1990	2000
<b>Total Population Over 16 Years</b>	<b>54,991</b>	<b>54,578</b>
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>46.7%</b>	<b>44.8%</b>
Employed in the Civilian Labor Force	40.7%	40.7%
Employed in Armed Forces	0.1%	0.0%
Unemployed	5.9%	4.0%
<b>Not in the Labor Force</b>	<b>53.3%</b>	<b>55.2%</b>

U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Decennial Census.

While unemployed persons as a percentage of all persons over 16 years of age is shown above in Tables 12 and 13, a true

**Table 13. 2000 Employment Characteristics**

PIKE COUNTY COMPARED to ADJACENT COUNTIES and the COMMONWEALTH of KENTUCKY

CHARACTERISTIC	PIKE COUNTY	ADJACENT COUNTIES	KENTUCKY	FLOYD COUNTY	KNOTT COUNTY	LETCHER COUNTY	MARTIN COUNTY	BUCHANAN COUNTY	DICKENSON COUNTY	WISE COUNTY	MINGO COUNTY
<b>Total Population Over 16 Years</b>	<b>54,578</b>	<b>166,977</b>	<b>3,161,542</b>	<b>33,750</b>	<b>13,933</b>	<b>20,112</b>	<b>9,522</b>	<b>22,008</b>	<b>13,259</b>	<b>32,114</b>	<b>22,279</b>
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>44.8%</b>	<b>43.0%</b>	<b>60.9%</b>	<b>41.4%</b>	<b>43.8%</b>	<b>43.4%</b>	<b>37.4%</b>	<b>39.8%</b>	<b>41.7%</b>	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>40.5%</b>
Employed in the Civilian Labor Force	40.7%	38.7%	56.9%	37.2%	36.9%	38.6%	32.6%	36.5%	38.8%	46.4%	36.1%
Employed in Armed Forces	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Unemployed	4.0%	4.2%	3.5%	4.2%	6.8%	4.8%	4.8%	3.3%	3.0%	3.6%	4.4%
<b>Not in the Labor Force</b>	<b>55.2%</b>	<b>57.0%</b>	<b>39.1%</b>	<b>58.6%</b>	<b>56.2%</b>	<b>56.6%</b>	<b>62.6%</b>	<b>60.2%</b>	<b>58.3%</b>	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>59.5%</b>

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census.

unemployment rate is calculated using the total number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the total labor force, all those individuals either employed or actively looking for employment.

Unemployment rates for all adjacent counties and the Commonwealth of Kentucky are compared in Table 14. Pike County's unemployment rate declined between 1990 and 2000, similar to all other counties in the region and the state as a whole. Declining unemployment was a trend seen across the country between 1990 and 2000. Pike County has a slightly lower unemployment rate (9.0 percent) compared to all adjacent counties (9.8 percent). However, compared to Kentucky's unemployment rate of 5.7 percent, the county's rate was higher in 2000. The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics reports Pike County's 2002 annual unadjusted unemployment rate to be 5.6 percent, which is the same as Kentucky's 2002 unemployment rate. These recent unemployment rates are closer to rates documented by the U.S. Census Bureau in 1970 (6.6 percent) and 1980 (7.7 percent).

In 2000, unemployment rates in Pikeville (6.6 percent) and Coal Run Village (8.4 percent) were lower than the county average, while Elkhorn City's unemployment rate was very close to the county average (9.3 percent).

**Table 14. 1990 and 2000 Unemployment Rates**

PIKE COUNTY COMPARED to ADJACENT COUNTIES and the COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

PLACE	1990	2000
PIKE COUNTY	12.6%	9.0%
ADJACENT COUNTIES	12.6%	9.8%
KENTUCKY	7.4%	5.7%
FLOYD COUNTY	12.6%	10.0%
KNOTT COUNTY	15.5%	15.6%
LETCHER COUNTY	13.8%	11.0%
MARTIN COUNTY	13.9%	12.8%
BUCHANAN COUNTY	10.3%	8.3%
DICKENSON COUNTY	13.8%	7.2%
WISE COUNTY	9.6%	7.2%
MINGO COUNTY	15.5%	10.8%

U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Decennial Census.

**Table 15. 2000 Net Work Flow**PIKE COUNTY COMPARED to  
ADJACENT COUNTIES

PLACE	NET WORK FLOW
PIKE COUNTY	2,791
ADJACENT COUNTIES	-6,380
FLOYD COUNTY	-506
KNOTT COUNTY	-1,173
LETCHER COUNTY	-1,000
MARTIN COUNTY	92
BUCHANAN COUNTY	-2,003
DICKENSON COUNTY	-1,421
WISE COUNTY	-845
MINGO COUNTY	476

In 2000, Pike County was an employment center with a positive net work flow (Table 15). A positive net work flow indicates that Pike County draws employees from outside the county to fill employment positions inside the county. A negative net work flow, as is experienced by many of the adjacent counties, indicates that more employees are drawn to other employment centers because of fewer jobs within their resident county. Pike County drew 2,791 employees from other counties in 2000.

*U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial  
Census.*

## IX. Income and Earnings

**Table 16. 1990 and 2000 Income Characteristics**

PIKE COUNTY

CHARACTERISTIC	1990	2000
Median Household Income	\$ 17,468	\$ 23,930
Per Capita Income	\$ 8,674	\$ 14,005
<b>Percent With Income Below Poverty Level</b>		
Individuals	25.8%	23.4%
Families	23.0%	20.6%

U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Decennial Census.

Between 1990 and 2000, Pike County's median household income increased by almost \$6,500 and the per capita income increased by over \$5,300 (Table 16). In 2000, Pike County's median household income of \$23,930 and per capita income of \$14,005 were the highest in the region, with the exception of Wise County, Virginia (Table 17). U.S. Census Bureau data also shows that the Commonwealth of Kentucky's median household income and per capita

income were much higher than Pike County's, which can be attributed to higher paying jobs in urban centers across the state, a larger percent of persons participating in the labor force, and lower rates of unemployment. By comparison, the United States' median household income was \$41,994 and per capita income was \$21,587 in the year 2000. Within Pike County, Coal Run Village's median household income (\$34,375) and per capita income (\$27,469) were significantly higher than the county-wide average. Pikeville and Elkhorn City's income characteristics were similar to the county averages.

Significant increases in median household income and per capita income have a direct impact on poverty status within the county. While a smaller percentage of Pike County residents lived below the poverty level in 2000, compared to 1990, the improvement still leaves Pike County well below the state and national averages, respectively. In 2000, 15.8 percent of Kentucky residents and 12.7 percent of Kentucky families lived below the poverty level. Across the nation, 12.4 percent of residents and 9.2 percent of families lived below the poverty level. Within the county, Pikeville's poverty rates were slightly higher than the county-wide average - 24.4 percent of residents and 17.1 percent of families lived below the poverty level in 2000. As part of the Appalachian Region, Pike County and its neighboring counties have historically been more economically challenged than other parts of Kentucky and the nation.

**Table 17. 2000 Income Characteristics**

PIKE COUNTY COMPARED to ADJACENT COUNTIES and the COMMONWEALTH of KENTUCKY

CHARACTERISTIC	PIKE COUNTY	ADJACENT COUNTIES	KENTUCKY	FLOYD COUNTY	KNOTT COUNTY	LETCHER COUNTY	MARTIN COUNTY	BUCHANAN COUNTY	DICKENSON COUNTY	WISE COUNTY	MINGO COUNTY
Median Household Income	\$ 23,930	---*	\$ 33,672	\$ 21,168	\$ 20,373	\$ 21,110	\$ 18,279	\$ 22,213	\$ 23,431	\$ 26,149	\$ 21,347
Per Capita Income	\$ 14,005	---*	\$ 18,093	\$ 12,442	\$ 11,297	\$ 11,984	\$ 10,650	\$ 12,788	\$ 12,822	\$ 14,271	\$ 12,445
<b>Percent With Income Below Poverty Level</b>											
Individuals	23.4%	26.7%	15.8%	30.3%	31.1%	27.1%	37.0%	23.2%	21.3%	20.0%	29.7%
Families	20.6%	22.9%	12.7%	26.9%	26.2%	23.7%	33.3%	19.8%	16.9%	16.1%	25.9%

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census.

\* Median Household Income and Per Capita Income cannot be calculated for all adjacent counties as a whole because individual data is not available.

## **X. Conclusions**

Pike County is at the heart of the Appalachian Region, which is known for its relative high poverty rates, low educational attainment, and high unemployment. However, Pike County has fared better than adjacent counties in terms of homeownership and vacancy rates, median value of owner-occupied homes, educational attainment, employment, and median household income. These factors indicate that Pike County is an employment center for the region with a diversified economy, a strong housing market, and, economically, its residents live at a level above most of the neighboring Appalachian counties. Because Pike County is so large geographically and in relative population size, the county is more able to provide regional services and attract additional economic development than other less densely populated areas. The county has significant local and regional recreation opportunities and is well served by local libraries and senior centers.

While Pike County fared well on a regional level, when compared to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the county clearly has fewer employment opportunities, a less diversified economy, and lower educational attainment. In addition, lower median incomes result in less buying power for Pike County residents when compared to the rest of the state. Pike County continues to lose population like many counties in the region and its median age is climbing higher. Together, these two factors lead to a smaller labor force, limited opportunity for employment growth, and increasing demands for public transportation, medical care and social services.

## **Appendix A: Resources**

### **Climate**

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### **Local Economy, Labor Force and Employment**

US Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses.

US Census Bureau, 1998 – 2001 County Business Patterns Data.

US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### **Income and Earnings**

US Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses.